Around Our Region

CNCC expands Dental Hygiene

Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) in Rangely, Colo., has recently gutted and renovated the building which houses the Dental Hygiene program. The new building boasts everything from new floors and walls to state of the art equipment.

The program, directed by Phil Brown, DDS, not only offers educational opportunities for students, it also provides services for patients at a reasonable cost.

Kathy LaNoue, webmaster for the program, said Dental Hygiene is a challenging and rewarding health care career that allows the practitioner to provide oral health care both as a team member and autonomously at the same time.

"This profession provides the opportunity to use many talents, not only clinically, but as a leader, educator, researcher, consumer advocate, health facilitator, and many more. Included in the job responsibilities of a hygienist are assessment, treatment planning, preventive and therapeutic procedures, as well as anesthesia and adjunctive therapies."

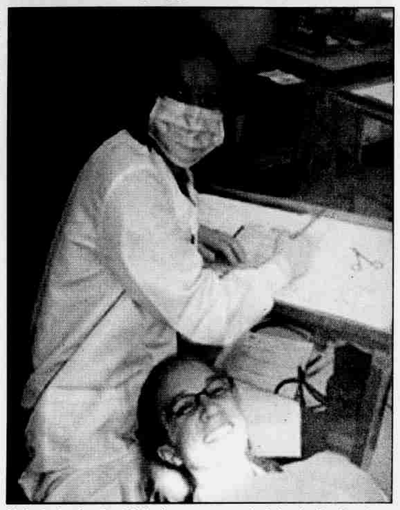
The dental hygiene program is designed to prepare students to be well-qualified dental hygienists. The program is a broad educational experience including training in preventive and therapeutic services and dental health education, as well as exposure to dental hygiene research and public health. Under the supervision of a dentist and the dental hygiene faculty, students provide preventive, therapeutic, and maintenance services for patients in the dental hygiene clinic and selected off-campus sites. The program places high emphasis on professional and ethical growth in each student, while fostering scientific and intellectual growth.

LaNoue said potential students must provide their most current college transcripts and these must be no older than five years. In addition, a number of classes must be completed before entry into the program. These include Introduction to Dental Hygiene or a pre-dental hygiene internship which provides students with the opportunity to supplement coursework with practical work experience related to their educational program. These include human anatomy and physiology, microbiology, chemistry, and English. A complete list of the prerequisite courses is available at www.cncc.edu.

Students planning on entering the dental hygiene program must have these courses completed or in-progress by February 1, 2006.

Students will also be expected to study communication, psychology and sociology as well as their dental hygiene courses.

Application to CNCC is the initial step for entrance into the Dental Hygiene Program. Dental hygiene is limited to 27 new students each year and always receives more applicants than can be accepted. Applicants must earn a minimum college grade point average of 2.8 (GPA) or higher with grades of "C" or better on all prerequisite courses. Students must continue to meet the GPA criteria at the end of Spring Semester 2006 or forfeit their position. A personal interview is required of those applicants being considered for final admission to the program. Applicants will be asked to write a one-page essay at the time of the interview.



Students in the Dental Hygiene program at Colorado Northwestern Community College practice on each other before they attend to patients.

Patients are offered a variety of services by the students under the supervision of faculty members. These services include health history assessment; extraoral and intraoral exam, including oral cancer screening; oral hygiene evaluation and preventive measures; oral cleaning; non-surgical periodontal therapy; additional indicated periodontal (gum) therapy, including local antimicrobials (medications); mechanical and chemical curettage (gum therapy); patient education; fluoride treatment; x-rays; pit and fissure sealants; nutrition counseling; impressions and study models; smoothing and polishing fillings.

The cost of dental hygiene services at CNCC for adults is determined by oral health classification. The cost ranges from $20.00 to $50.00. Senior citizen fees are one half of the applicable adult fee. For children the cost is $10.00. Sealants are $7.50 per tooth. Some optional treatments may require an additional charge.

To make an appointment please call 970-675-3250 or 1-800-562-1105 ext. 250.

Terminated "mixed bloods" ask for re-entry into Ute Tribe

Earl Denver of Taft, Calif., holds up a shirt of Ute design he received during a meeting of "Mixed-Blood" Utes. The terminated Utes and their descendants are attempting to regain assets lost to them following the federally mandated termination of 490 people from the Ute Tribe.

"Ever since Plymouth Rock, it's all been about money." So said attorney Dennis G. Chappabitty during a meeting held at the University of Utah campus in Roosevelt on July 3.

Chappabitty represents the so-called "Mixed-Blood Uintas of Utah" in a case titled Felter versus Norton. The case is based on an act of Congress from Aug. 27, 1954, when the U.S. Congress passed the Ute Partition Act (UPA). That act forced 490 people, both adults and minors, who were "Mixed-Blood" members of the Uinta Band of Ute Indians out of the tribe. Congress stripped the 490 Uintas of their federally-recognized tribal identity through an experiment called "termination", a federal policy that attempted to force the assimilation of Native Americans into the dominant culture.

Soon after Congress enacted the UPA, federal and tribal officials were obligated to divide the assets of the tribe between the "Full-Bloods" and the Mixed-Blood Uintas using a complicated set of rules. Under the UPA the "Full-Blood" Utes were to be terminated from federal guardianship later, but this didn't happen.

What did happen was that although the UPA prohibited the transfer or sale of shares in an organization called the Ute Distribution Corporation (UDC) into the hands of non-Indians, many of these shares ended up belonging to both non-Indians and to non-terminated members of the Ute Tribe.

Earl Denver, of Taft, Calif., said that the terminated 490 Mixed-Bloods were left without resources and with little chance of entering mainstream America. Denver's older brother, Alvin Denver, was two years old when he was terminated from the Ute Tribe. Earl had not yet been born. He therefore has never had the opportunity to belong to a tribe nor did he receive a share of the divided assets.

Alvin Denver said he has tried unsuccessfully since he was age 25 to find out what happened to his shares of UDC. He said he can trace them back to a trusteeship for minors with First Security Bank but beyond that he has no idea where his shares are or how to enforce his ownership of the shares. This represents a major financial loss to him as the dividends currently paid to shareholders are substantial.

On November 4, 2002, surviving members of the originally terminated 490 Mixed-Blood Uintas and their descendants filed a complaint titled "Felter, et al. -vs- Norton, et al.", Case No. 1:02CV2156 RCL, in the U.S. District Court, District of Columbia. This lawsuit is an attempt to force the U.S. government to account for funds arising from a $32 million dollar Indian Claims Commission judgment allocated under an Act of Congress approved on August 21, 1951.

Chappabitty said that after two years there have been no decisions made in the case and that there is no way he or the plaintiffs can force a decision. "We have nowhere to turn," Chappabitty said. "The courts can drag this out as long as they want to. We are losing plaintiffs through attrition. The originally terminated Utes are dying off."

Chappabitty also said that with the great controversy remaining in the air for over 50 years, it is shameful that not even Utah's Congressional delegation has taken a serious interest in helping advocate for the terminated Mixed-Blood Uintas. Chappabitty added that in those unique circumstances where Congress has passed legislation to restore terminated tribes, the issue of recovering damages for wrongfully lost or dissipated land or other valuables was not included in the restoration legislation: "The terminated Mixed-Blood Uinta situation is entirely different with clear cut evidence that the federal government utterly failed to protect the land and other assets of the 490 and that failure has resulted in the loss of millions and millions of dollars to the plaintiffs and their descendants." He added: "It is clear that no member of Utah's Congressional delegation wants to risk addressing this issue head-on by sponsoring restoration legislation when very powerful organizations, including the Ute Indian Tribe, now own the assets lost by my clients.

"It is a very well guarded secret that the Ute Distribution Corporation is comprised of non-Indians and non-Indian organizations masquerading as members of the original 490 terminated Mixed-Blood Uintas," Chapabitty said.

Oranna Felter, the lead plaintiff in the case, said she has spoken with Congressman Jim Matheson (R-Utah) about the case. She said he admitted that he has very little knowledge of the case and must learn more before he can be of any help. She has attempted to speak with Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Sen. Bob Bennett (R-Utah) but has been unsuccessful. She said she has made phone calls, sent letters and sent e-mails but has received no response.

Behunin updates elected officers on USU Uintah Basin

Dr. Robert Behunin recently presented information to the Vernal City Council and Uintah County Commission on the status of the Uintah Basin Campus of the University of Utah and the progress that is being made in several areas.

Behunin said the new degree proposed by the Business College has been approved by the Board of Regents and will be accredited by the Association for Accreditation of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). He said this will advantage students in a number of meaningful ways. Specifically, students will be able to articulate into other AACSB programs without impediment.

Behunin proposed a Community Education Impact Study for Vernal City and Uintah County. The study would provide data to buttress and support educational expansion projects. "We determine our course; we decide our fate; it is up to us — Vernal City and Uintah County — to say, 'This is what higher education will be in our community,'" stated Behunin. "Quite frankly, I have been part of the 'Ivory Tower System' and I have spent years telling people and communities 'What higher education will be like.' I came to the Basin because this is where people can still create their own destiny in higher education. This study will give the Basin the empirical data necessary to make reliable, strategic decisions about the direction of higher education growth," he added.

Concerning fund raising, Behunin said Vernal City and Uintah County need to embark on an aggressive development and fund raising campaign to support higher education. He stated, "Mineral lease money cannot and should not be viewed as the only possible funding mechanism for scholarships. The greatest tragedy we will face in this community is when — not if, but when — mineral lease slows to a trickle and there is no money to fuel the educational engine. Our ability to sustain the current economic climb rests with higher education."

Behunin said there are four crucial indicators that will ensure educational and economic success. These are full ride scholarships; adequate, flexible, plentiful and meaningful jobs for students; student life, social, religious and recreational opportunities; appropriate and adequate housing.

Behunin said the potential for developing these four elements are greater in the Uintah Basin now than in any other time in its history.

"One of the things that will help us in our capital facilities projects is a healthy, sustainable endowment," said Behunin. "One measurable reason why buildings are funded at the bigger schools is that they have healthy, growing scholarship endowments to attract and recruit students. We do not have that. We need that."

Adding educational programs and courses is another necessity. Developmental funds would allow for expansion of necessary programs that would be offered at USU-Uintah Basin. Behunin said, "My vision is to have our development funds support and drive new programs that will 1) keep students in the Basin, 2) bring students to the Basin, and 3) sustain the economic growth we currently enjoy. The way we do that is by using the development funds to pay salaries for the first few years as we build academic programs. When those programs become self sustaining, then we reallocate those funds to other projects.

"There may be those of us who hold a belief that the State should provide for us. I can guarantee you all that the State is not in a position to fund new programs, new faculty or anything of a sort. State institutions have gone from being state funded, to state supported, to state affiliated in name only. This is why the University of Utah, Utah State University, Southern Utah University and Weber state have sought out aggressive development staff to enhance their economic viability. We need to add programs and personnel; but we must assume the responsibility and the risks."

Behunin said there is a need for a local foundation with a mission to ensure the continuation of financial support for higher education in the Uintah Basin through sustained and strategic development efforts. The primary concern of an organization of this level would be to help in development efforts and in allocation of foundation resources.

Joint partnering for future needs, after completion of the educational impact study, is another goal addressed by Behunin. "The joint partnership for USU/Vernal City/Uintah County rests in the strength of how we approach our development issues. First and foremost, a foundation needs to be organized and established; it needs 501(c)(3) NPO status; it needs to be able to receive and receipt donations; it needs to begin to raise millions of dollars.

"We need to partner and support programs through cost sharing programs. We need to see how we can support faculty and staff salaries to grow programs. We need to see how private industry would help support programs," he said.

Behunin offered his "Unofficial/ Rob Behunin Plan" as a potential master plan for the Vernal Campus. It includes funding and constructing the combined USU/UBATC building. It would keep the soccer fields available for expansion in the future. It would also establish the foundation mentioned above and would focus on creating a regional energy and conservation center.

In closing, Behunin told his audience, "My friends, I can't tell you how serious I am about this; but I also want to tell you how excited I am about the possibilities. If we start today, and I mean today, June 17th 2005, we can build a legacy of such tremendous impact that it will carry positive, enduring effects. What we do here today is no small task; I will be the first to say that it is a huge paradigm shift in the way Vernal City and Uintah County have approached higher education. It is aggressive, it is high profile, and it will require energy, commitment and resources.

"If we succeed in doing more than just talking, we will have "done the difficult,' and we will be successful. If we decide not to move forward in such an endeavor, if we let our vision become clouded by old habits and fleeting shadows of perceived impossibilities, I believe we and our children will look back with regret on an opportunity that was missed. Albert Einstein once said, 'the foulest word in the English language is potential; why you ask would I say such a thing? Because it is used in conjunction with our failures rather than our successes.'"

Foley to join USU Board of Trustees

Robert Lynn Foley, a partner with Caldwell, Combs & Foley, LLP, has been asked by Gov. Jon Huntsman, Jr. to assume a seat on the Board of Trustees for Utah State University (USU). The Utah Senate must confirm the appointment by July 20 to make it official.

Robert L. Foley will assume a position on the USU Board of Trustees following Senate approval of his appointment by Gov. Jon Huntsman, Jr.

Foley said he has been involved with higher education for many years. He has been chairman of the Uintah Basin USU Advisory Board since 1998 and he is also the chairman of the Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce Education Committee and has been on the Chamber Board of Directors for 16 years.

He is a graduate of Uintah High School and earned a BS from Brigham Young University. He holds an MBA from USU in Logan. Foley is a member of several professional groups and is a certified public accountant in both Colorado and Utah and is a peer reviewer for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Foley will be the only member of the USU Board of Trustees from a rural area with extensive experience in the area of continuing education. He said he wants to see USU succeed in every aspect but his personal interest is in helping the Uintah Basin get what is needed on the local campuses. His term will expire in June, 2009.

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Sheriff's Warrants

Warrants of arrest from 8th District Court as of Tuesday, July 12, includes the following individuals:

— Michael Dewayne Allen, born May 6, 1978, who is wanted on a $5,000 warrant.

— Robert Dell Burris, born Oct. 30, 1976, who is wanted on two warrants for $1,816 and $807.

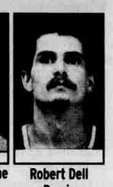
— Dawn Scott Gerrard, born Feb. 12, 1974, who is wanted on three warrants: two for $2500 each and one for $5000.

— Jessica Dawn Jacobsen, born Nov. 25, 1975, who is wanted on a $10,000 warrant.

— Julio C. Padilla, born Dec. 5, 1977, who is wanted on a $3,500 warrant.

Persons with information about the location of these individuals should contact the Uintah County Sheriff's Department, 789-2511; Central Dispatch, 789-4222 or use the Secret Witness Line, 781-5400.

Michael Dewayne Allen



Robert Dell Burris

Dawn Scott Gerrard

Jessica Dawn Jacobsen

Julio C. Padilla

New Democratic Chair selected for Uintah County

At the recent Uintah County Democratic County Convention, new officers were selected to oversee local Party activities. Stephen Borton became the new Democratic Chairperson for Uintah County, while Michele Mansfield was reelected as Vice Chair, and Vernie Heeney takes the position of Secretary-Treasurer. Stepping down as the previous Chairperson was Leonard Heeney, who has worked hard for the Democratic Party for years, both at the state and local level; in addition he has served in local government as Mayor of Vernal.

A number of issues were discussed at the Convention. The number one priority in Uintah County is to offer the voters a choice when they go to the polls. Stephen Borton stated, "Many people have the perception of Uintah County being a one-party county, but this is not true. Over the years many Democrats have served in government with the support of voters from this county. Former State Governor Matheson enjoyed great popularity with the local voters and he was a Democrat. His Democratic son serves today as the Congressman for our region. Previously, Congressman Orton, another Democrat, represented our corner of Utah in the U.S. Congress. While in the more distant past, a number of Democrats have served in our local government." Borton goes on to say that "the two party system is vital to the health and survival of democracy in America."

Another top issue with local Democratic Party members is education. Borton, who is a local teacher went on to say, "Nationally our system of public education has been under attack. No Child Left Behind started as a noble idea, but when the needed funding for the program was never provided it created a no-win situation for our schools. Within the state of Utah, funding shortfalls for education have been ignored for too long, which is clearly illustrated by the fact that no state spends less per child on education than Utah. Locally a number of our schools are getting old and in need of massive repairs or even replacing. At the same time many of our classrooms are overcrowded; the current oil and natural gas boom is only going to make the problem worse."

Right up there with education is concern about law enforcement in Uintah County. Again new Chairperson Borton said, "Our Sheriff and police departments do a great job in looking out for our public safety, but these hardworking people work in departments that are understaffed and they are inadequately paid for the tough jobs they must do as our county grows. These brave men and women deserve better pay and more community support."

Other issues of great concern to the Democrats are wide-ranging. Having witnessed the oil boom and bust of the 70s and 80s, it is asked whether our local and state officials are doing adequate planning to deal with the expected growth in the Uintah Basin. The county government needs to take responsibility for planning and zoning to address issues of current and future growth. More attention needs to be given to water and sanitation needs, utilities, flood control, open space, recreational and school needs, plus the future of both agriculture and the mineral extraction industries within the area. Due to the fact that so much of the region is federally owned land, they also need to work in better cooperation with the federal agencies in charge of these lands.

Tourism in northeastern Utah needs to be addressed and promoted. Many local businesses serve the tourist trade; are local leaders doing all they can to meet those needs? And while the local Democratic Party supports efforts to bring railroad transportation to Vernal, they have serious questions and concerns about those who wish to bring "factory-style", massive pig and chicken farms to our area. Giant hog operations in southern Utah have led to a number of problems, including reduced property values for the neighbors of these operations due to the smell.

The local Democratic Party also flat out opposes the dumping of radioactive and other toxic wastes in northeastern Utah. A closer look at the state's plans to make individual counties responsible for the upkeep of state highways needs to be taken. Will the counties have the equipment, manpower and funding to care for the state highways?

The Uintah County Democratic executive committee goes on to say, "We need to be doing more to make the Wasatch Front aware that we have our own special needs and concerns in rural Utah, which they all too often either ignore or do not understand." The local Democratic Party invites all concerned local citizens to get involved, with whichever party best meets your needs. To make democracy work, caring people need to get involved both as supporters and as candidates for office.

Vernal City provides election information

The positions of mayor and two city council seats will be open for election this year. Declarations of candidacy for Vernal City Council seats currently held by Bert Clark and John Parker plus the position of mayor, currently held by William Kremin, will be accepted between July 15 and August 15.

Candidates must submit a declaration of candidacy to the City Recorder's Office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday during the applicable dates. A nominating petition signed by 25 Vernal City residents who are at least 18 years of age may be submitted to the City Recorder's Office.

Several qualifications must be met by candidates. All candidates must be U.S. citizens of at least 18 years of age and must be registered voters. Candidates must have lived in Vernal City for 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election.

Candidates must appear in person in the City Recorder's Office at 447 East Main to hear the constitutional and statutory qualification requirements for office and the candidates must state whether or not they meet those requirements.

The Vernal City Council amended the municipal code concerning financial disclosures for election campaigns to match the Utah State Code. The code was reduced considerably and states, "All candidates for elective municipal office shall comply with the campaign finance disclosure requirements set forth in UCA 10-3-208 and any other applicable laws as required by the State of Utah."

Vernal City also combined several voting precincts. Vernal precinct 11 is now combined precinct 1 with 550 registered voters. Combined precinct 2 is made up of Vernal precincts 8 and 9 with 1,180 voters and combined precinct 3 is made up of Vernal precincts 12 and 14 with 1,210 voters. Vernal precinct 13 is now combined precinct 4 with 430 voters and Vernal precinct 10 is now combined precinct 5 with 750 voters.

Tip of the Week
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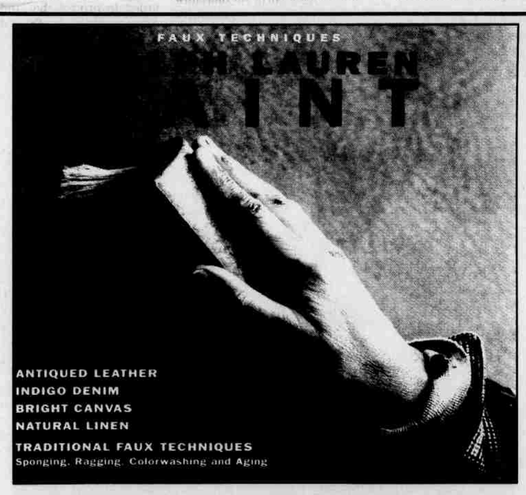

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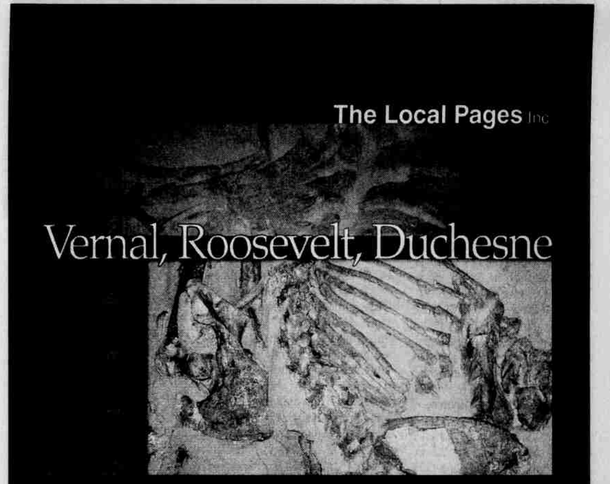

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